

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /051 W
-----211451Z 128331 /53

O R 211015Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9344
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK 390

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0212

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, SEDU, BC, US
SUBJECT: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNHCR AND USG AID

REF: A. GABORONE 207; B. GABORONE 201; C. 76 STATE 11808 (NOTAL);
D. GABORONE 188 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED IN REF C AND PROMISED IN REF A,
HEREWITH EMBASSY/UNHCR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOTSWANA PORTION
OF USG ONE MILLION DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR. IN ADDITION,
WE HAVE PROPOSED SEVERAL PURPOSES FOR WHICH USG MIGHT MAKE
BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. UNHCR ASSISTANCE: WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH UNHCR REP AND
JOINTLY PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING: A) AS NOTED REF A,
UNHCR CANNOT USE REFUGEE FUNDS FOR SUBSISTENCE OR ZIMBABWEANS
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IN FRANCISTOWN. DESPITE WFP FOOD, GOB HAVING HARD TIME
FUNDING SUPPLEMENT TO THIS ASSISTANCE. WE ESTIMATE
THEY CURRENTLY RUNNING THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND PULA
DEFICIT MONTHLY (UP TO \$4,500) WHICH, WITH PROBABLE
INCREASE IN REFUGEE NUMBERS OVER NEXT TWELVE MONTHS,
WILL AVERAGE OUT AT SOMEWHERE NEAR 5,000 PULA (\$6,000)
MONTHLY. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE NO LESS THAN \$72,000 OF

UNHCR FUNDS BE EARMARKED TO FEED ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES DURING TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD. (NOTE: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER DESIGNATING FUNDS FOR RHODESIAN REFUGEES WILL PROVE LEGAL PROBLEM, BUT BELIEVE THAT UK NOT LIKELY TO STAND IN THE WAY. IF THERE IS LEGAL DIFFICULTY THEN OF COURSE FUNDS MIGHT BE DESTINED FOR "SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA". IN EITHER CASE, THEY WOULD PROVIDE BADLY NEEDED RELIEF TO HARD-PRESSED GOB.) B) REF A ALSO DESCRIBES GOB'S CONTEMPLATED EDUCATIONAL PROJECT WHICH, WE ESTIMATE, MIGHT COST IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS. THIS IS PROJECT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GOB, SINCE SOWETO STUDENTS ARE AN INCREASING SOCIAL PROBLEM IN GABORONE, AND GOB LACKS FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THEM ELSEWHERE. UNHCR REP INFORMS US FRG ALREADY INDICATED INTEREST IN HELPING WITH SUCH PROJECT; AND UNHCR ITSELF WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO BE INVOLVED. WE RECOMMEND US CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR OF 250 THOUSAND DOLLARS TOWARD INITIAL CAPITAL COSTS OF THIS VOCATIONAL/ SCHOOL CAMP, WITH EXPECTATION THAT OTHER DONORS AS WELL WILL BE PROMPTED TO JOIN THE EFFORT.

IN TWO ITEMS ABOVE, WE HAVE RECOMMENDED A TOTAL OF 322 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CARE AND MAINTENANCE, PLUS EDUCATION, ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA. THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION WOULD AFFECT PRIMARILY THE ZIMBABWEANS IN THE NORTH, WHILE THE SECOND IS DESIGNED MAINLY TO HELP THE SOWETO STUDENTS. COMBINED, THESE RELATIVELY MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT AND POPULAR ALLEVIATION OF GOB'S INCREASING REFUGEE PROBLEM.

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3. USG BILATERAL ASSISTANCE:

A. IN REF A WE REQUEST USG, WITH CONCURRENCE OF GOB, PROVIDE EXPERT IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING. THIS REMAINS OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FIRST STEP IN WHAT WE TRUST WILL BE PROGRAM OF USG DIRECT ASSISTANCE, TO AUGMENT THOSE MEASURES CONTAINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

B. REF D CONTAINED OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON, AND FACILITATION OF, OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION OF REFUGEES IN U.S. (AND PERHAPS THIRD COUNTRIES). THIS, WE BELIEVE, REMAINS A HIGH PRIORITY. WHILE IT CANNOT ABSORB MORE THAN A SMALL FRACTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER SEEKING EDUCATION, IT CAN BE AN EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM SYMBOLICALLY, AS EVIDENCE OF USG'S SINCERE DESIRE TO HELP. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY IN REAL TERMS TO SYMPHON OFF THE ABLEST AND MOST POLITICALLY AWARE OF THE YOUNG REFUGEES -- THOSE WHO IF GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY CAN BECOME TOMORROW'S LEADERS, OR IF NEGLECTED CAN BE TODAY'S

SOCIO-POLITICAL HEADACHES. WE THEREFORE URGE PRIORITY BE GIVEN THIS RECOMMENDATION.

C. A THIRD AREA OF ASSISTANCE WHICH LENDS ITSELF TO USG BILATERAL EFFORTS IS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE SECOND REFUGEE CENTER (SEE REF A), DESIGNED TO OPERATE IN (WE BELIEVE THE HIGHLY PROBABLE) EVENT THAT THE FRANCISTOWN FACILITIES PROVE INADEQUATE. THIS WOULD OCCUR EITHER IF THE FLOW OF POTENTIAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS NORTHWARD BECOMES MARKEDLY INTENSIFIED, OR IF CIVIL STRIFE BREAKS OUT IN RHODESIA. IN THE LATTER INSTANCE, BOTSWANA MIGHT EXPERIENCE A LARGE INFLUX OF "GENUINE" (I.E. WOMEN, CHILDREN, ELDERLY) REFUGEES. TO PROVIDE FOR THIS CONTINGENCY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISSE TO ERECT PERMANENT FACILITIES. WE SUGGEST RATHER THAT USG MAKE AVAILABLE (AS GIFTS OR ON LOAN) SUFFICIENT TENTS TO HOUSE PERHAPS 900 PEOPLE (TIBONE
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MENTIONED 45-MAN TENTS). THE PERMANENT FACILITIES (I.E., ABULTION UNITS, FENCING, LIGHTING) COULD BE INSTALLED NOW, AND THE TENTS ERECTED AS NEEDED. TO SUM UP, OUR INITIAL RECOMMENDATION IN THIS AREA (TO BE CONFIRMED OR MODIFIED BY ASSISTANCE EXPERT MENTIONED IN SUB-PARA (A) ABOVE) IS FOR:

1. 25 TO 30 LARGE (45-MAN) TENTS:

2. 40 THOUSAND DOLLARS, TO HELP GOB PROVIDE ABLUTION UNITS, LIGHTING, WATER, FENCING, ETC)

IF USG HAS SURPLUS TENTS AVAILABLE, THIS TOTAL INVESTMENT WOULD BE QUITE SMALL IN RELATION TO THE GREAT BENEFIT IT WOULD PROVIDE IN TIME OF NEED. FURTHERMORE, THE TENTS IF NOT NEEDED FOR RHODESIAN REFUGEES COULD BE USED IN EARLIER STAGES OF THE VOCATIONAL/SCHOOL CAMP MENTIONED IN PARA 2.

D. FINALLY, DEPENDING ON OTHER DONOR RESPONSE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER WAYS OF AUGMENTING DIRECTNLY THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOL CAMP RECOMMENDED IN PARA 2.

4. COMMENT: IT IS IMPORTANT PARTICULARLY AT THIS CRUCIAL PLANNING STAGE, TO HAVE INDICATIONS OF EXTENT TO WHICH USG IS WILLING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN FIELDS OUTLINED ABOVE. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REACTION AND REGULAR SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABORO00212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0050
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770130/aaaabang.tel
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Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GABORONE 207, 77 GABORONE 201, 76 STATE 11808, 77 GABORONE 188
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3541384
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNHCR AND USG AID
TAGS: SREF, SEDU, EAID, BC, US, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb0e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009